

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of January 12, 2007 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 16 - 43 have been examined and rejected as unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Sanchelima.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Sanchelima relates to a holding tank with variable residence time used in a continuous flow process, and to a level sensor(s) mounted on the side of the tank. An inner compartment is provided in an outer compartment. The inner compartment has an inlet by means of which liquid is delivered to the inner compartment. The liquid overflows the inner compartment into the outer compartment and out the outer compartment through a outlet controlled by a pump and a variable throttle valve. The level sensors noted above are pressure sensors and are not part of a conductive measuring system.

The invention of this application includes, as defined in claim 16, "at least two measuring electrodes" not found in Sanchelima. A measuring current is defined as flowing between the electrodes and is used "for detecting when the predefined fill level is reached." A "compensation electrode" is also provided so that a "disturbance current" which flows between at least one of the sensors and the compensation electrode "is drained away via said compensation electrode." The examiner states that sensor 60 of Sanchelima is a "compensation sensor." Applicant must respectfully disagree. Sensor 60 is defined as a level sensor and not a compensation sensor with the function defined in claim 16. This is merely one distinction which should be enough to distinguish the invention over Sanchelima. To further define over Sanchelima, claims 16 and 17, the two independent claims, have been amended to locate the measuring electrode(s) an the compensation electrode

in the lid of the container. Sanchelima mounts his sensors in the side wall of the tank.

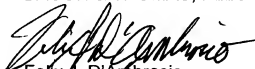
The noted distinctions are not found in Sanchelima, and are also not found in the other prior art of record.

Accordingly, there is no basis in the art of record, either considered individually, or in combination, to prevent the patenting of claims 16 - 43.

Reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 16 - 43 found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,
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